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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF INDIA

IPF:(1992-96) $156 120 000

(IND/89/039) - Wildlife Management and Eco-development Planning Capabilities

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	15 January 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (Wildlife Institute of India) in cooperation with FAO
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Directorate of Wildlife Preservation
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 400 000 Source of Funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 400 000

Project background

The last two decades have witnessed a significant effort launched by India to improve the concept and practice of wildlife conservation and management. In particular, its work in protecting endangered wild animals such as leopards and tigers has been internationally acclaimed.

A closer examination of the wildlife sector in India however reveals three major deficiencies in conservation and management capability. Firstly, the current network of the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries - or the protected areas - does not cover the great range of biological diversity within the country. National objectives for the conservation of genetic resources are thus not fully met. Secondly, most protected areas have no management plans to control and direct conservation efforts in the face of growing land use pressures from resource-dependent rural people. Lastly, there is a dearth of realistic programmes to reduce the high level of dependence on protected areas by local people, i.e., the provision of alternative resources or life-styles. This continued dependence on forest resources has led to increasing antagonism towards conservation policies amongst many rural communities. Thus, while the nation needs to strengthen its protected area network, it is equally imperative to ensure that the protected areas are effectively managed without conflict with local communities. The situation now calls for an approach, largely untried

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[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

in India whereby participatory planning of protected areas management and of eco-development inputs can provide alternatives for rural people to meet their needs, and reduce their dependence on biomass resources in protected areas.

To this end the Government has designated the Dehra Dun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII), a public entity specialized in wildlife research and training with an increasing contribution recently to policy and management concerns at state and national level, to lead a pioneering effort in ecodevelopment. It has therefore requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the Wildlife Institute of India to impart state-of-the art training required for the development and implementation of rational wildlife management and eco-development initiatives. The immediate objectives are to : (a) establish training programme with multi-disciplinary teams of experts in partnership with grass-roots workers; and (b) implement wildlife management and eco-development planning.

Project activities will include : (a) providing intensive training for the field project officers appointed by the State Forest Departments, for other cadres of workers from rural development agencies, and for NGO representatives; (b) developing specific on-site plans for wildlife management and eco-development schemes using the Participatory Rural Appraisal method; (c) covering twenty states and selecting for pilot sites such environmentally sensitive areas as mountains, wetlands, and evergreen forests; (d) demonstrating inter alia, viable rural development strategies that will have been evolved with full involvement of forest-dependent people, especially women, in the form of model eco-development projects; (e) developing a set of methodologies and guidelines for an efficient review and approval of various plans for implementation using the funds already sanctioned during the project and beyond; and (f) yielding essential data and experience on which to base nation-wide efforts for replication.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 60 work-months of international consultancy and 53 work-months of national consultancy in multi-disciplinary subjects in management planning and eco-development; an in-depth evaluation; 77 work-months of overseas training comprising seven study tours and 24 fellowships in institutional and field management of wildlife and eco-development in (North America, Scandinavia, South East Asia, East Africa, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica and other places) and 3 work-month reserved for participation in related regional and international fora; and equipment for electronic data gathering, analysis and dissemination.

Financial data

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Personnel	688 700
Training	431 000
Equipment	235 000
Miscellaneous	45 300
Total	1 400 000

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